

Site: M: 26/10/41

Wagner House

201 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: 1895 Architect/Builder: Edwin M. West Private

The Wagner House is a skillful blending of the Queen Anne architectural vocabulary with the craftsmanship of master builder Edwin West. Mr. West designed this house as a mirror image of his own house plan, but varied the massing and placement of its corner two-story polygonal bay, "Rockville Bay", and surface details. He used a wide verandah that sweeps around the corner tower, and surfaces of slate, shaped shingling and tin. It remains in near original condition and is considered by many to embody the look of "Victorian Rockville".

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Wagner House

2. Location

street & number 201 West Montgomery Avenue ☐ not for publicationcity, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name T. Gordon and Rita M. Wagner

street & number 201 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 762-3756

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records 1992 liber

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse 363 folio

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places 1974

date City of Rockville Historic District 1974 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No M.26/10/41

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Wagner House is a 2-and-1/2-story, three-bay by three-bay, Queen Anne style structure. It faces south and is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Montgomery Avenue and Van Buren Street. The grounds have a number of mature trees and shrubs, as the house was constructed in what was once an oak grove on Margaret Beall's property of the Beall-Dawson House at 103 West Montgomery Avenue. Many of the original trees were cut down during a fire in 1894 to protect the neighboring houses; some were replanted and are now over ninety years old.

The basic house form is a square main block with the tower projecting from the southwestern corner, a gable extending from the northeastern corner, and a recessed rear ell extending to the north from the center. This house was built after a fire destroyed the original (see photo attachment 7.3) in 1894. The original house remains may be seen in the cellar where a brick foundation is superimposed on parts of a stone foundation. The present house sits on this brick over stone foundation with a section of rough logs serving as support posts at the foot of the narrow cellar steps. It is sheathed in a narrow siding with occasional breaks for decorative shingles.

The main block and rear roofs are hipped, broken by an east gable and a southwest polygonal tower. The roofs are covered in composition asphalt shingles with the exception of the patterned slate on the tower and the painted seam tin roof on the porches. There is a tall central diagonal chimney and an interior brick flue. All of the windows have the original louvered shutters with working hardware.

Typical of the Queen Anne style residence, the principal facade is asymmetrically arranged. A one-story, full-width, wrap-around porch visually connects the many stylistic features on the facade. This porch has turned columns with jig-sawn brackets. A plain balustrade connects the columns and extends down the wide front steps, near the center of the facade, ending in turned newel posts.

The polygonal tower at the southwest corner of the house appears to rise through the porch to dominate the facade. Four six-over-one windows highlight the tower's first floor. An exterior door with one large pane of glass in a beaded molding with glass transom separates the third and fourth windows; this serves as the main entryway to the house. The second story of the tower has five six-over-one windows. A conical roof covered with patterned slate tops the tower and is accented by a copper weathervane. A wide band of fish-scale shingles separates the second story windows and the roof. Single one-over-one windows are in each of the other two bays on the second story.

Continued on attachment 7.1

The two east bays on this facade are formed on the first floor by a pair of one-over-one windows with an arched lunette window of leaded colored glass in a quilted pattern above. A hipped roof dormer centered over the right side of the facade with paired, multi-paned casement windows completes the facade.

The verandah continues around the west facade for approximately one-third of its length. The remainder of the west facade consists of three bays: two in the recessed rear ell and one in the main block; each represented by a single sash window in the first and second bays of the first floor and in all of the bays of the second story. Two-over-two windows are in the recessed rear ell story and one-over-one in the main block. A one-story three-sided bay with one-over-one long narrow windows on each side is on the first story of the main block. A small, oval decorative window is between the verandah and bay window on the first story. Another hipped dormer similar to the front dormer, but with paired narrow sash windows, is located above the second-story window.

The north facade consists of the hipped-roof rear ell with a two-over-two window on the second story at the northeastern corner. Another two-over-two window on the inside corner located on the cross gable that extends out on the east facade. An interior brick flue rises from the center of the rear ell. This facade has been altered by the recent attachment of a breezeway to the new garage.

The east facade of the house lies close to Van Buren Street separated from it by shoulder-high hedges and a narrow cement sidewalk. Each of the bays has either one-over-one or two-over-two sash windows on the first and second stories. A two-story "Rockville Bay" highlights the center of this facade; its first story is a three-sided bay with slanted and recessed sides and a center section rising to the same plane as the second floor; the second story is supported on curved brackets with pendants decorating the ends. The gable pediment above the bay has paired, multi-paned casement windows similar to the dormer on the south facade. The enclosed pediment and the horizontal space between the first and second story bay are covered in fish-scale shingles. A one-story porch extends to the north from the bay covering an exterior door. It is supported by a turned wooden column with decorative bracket, and topped by a balustraded balcony.

Garage

The recently built (1984) garage, is connected by an enclosed breezeway to the north facade and is entered from a driveway on Van Buren St. It overshadows the north facade of the house. Covered in aluminum on three sides, the wood framing and details on the street side attempt to reflect the period of the house. These include a large pedimented gable decorated with shingles and the reuse of the removed porch's sawn bracketing. The original kitchen well lies in this area.

Interior

The Wagner House, built by Edwin West, has many similarities to his own house diagonally across West Montgomery Avenue (#26/10/8). The facades of both houses are variations on the same theme, and the interior plan is a mirror image of his own, although somewhat larger. Fine woodwork and Eastlake detailing highlight the interior.

8. Significance

Survey No M: 26/10/41

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates 1895 Builder/Architect Edwin M. West, Builder

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

This 1895 example of a Queen Anne style suburban villa is often illustrated or photographed to convey the image of "Victorian" Rockville. 1/ Its corner turret, bays, sweeping verandah, bright yellow paint, and location on the sight line at the intersection of three busy streets emphasize this image. It has been little changed since its construction.

History and Support

The creation of the Civil Service Commission in 1883 had a direct effect on the development of Rockville and other communities as desirable suburban locations. Upper level government workers heretofore dependent on the spoils system for employment were now protected by tenure; this encouraged them to leave Washington's boarding houses and construct permanent family residences outside the City of Washington. The coming of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873 promoted Rockville as a desirable suburban location.

In August, 1886, John W. Hogg, Chief Clerk of the Navy Department, purchased Lot #2 in Margaret Beall's new subdivision for \$600. 2/ A house valued at \$2,250 was constructed in time to appear on the 1887 Tax Assessments. It is shown as a "footprint" silhouette on the 1890 survey of Commerce Street houses, and Henry Copp illustrated it in his "Peerless Rockville" brochure of the same date. However, the house was completely destroyed by fire in late 1894. 3/

The Hogg property was located diagonally across the street from the residence of master builder Edwin Montgomery West. In the September 29th, 1895 issue of the Sentinel newspaper it was noted that "E.M. West is building a house for Mrs. Sarah Hogg in the west end of Rockville".

Continued on attachment 8.1

For the Hoggs, Mr. West constructed a house in which the massing, materials and decorative details were familiar to him, and the plan was a mirror image of his own residence. The Wagner House refines the Queen Anne theme with a hip roof and dormer, a wrap-around verandah that flows around the two-story corner polygonal bay, a side Rockville bay and contrasting surface elements of slate, tin, frame, and embricated shingling. Along with his own home at 114 West Montgomery, the Wagner House is one of Mr. West's finest buildings and may have been his last private commission in Rockville. After 1895 he turned his attention increasingly to other pursuits. 4/ He served as a Town Commissioner (1892-1896) and ran for mayor; he invested in local businesses and in 1896 he purchased the 115 acre farm "Rose Hill" where he bred horses. Mr. West left Rockville in 1909.

Mamie Hogg succeeded her mother as owner of 201 West Montgomery Avenue. She is remembered for her beautiful singing voice and performed at many of the town's social and cultural functions. 5/ In 1912 the house was sold to the J. Gardiner Darby family for \$4,500. Subsequent owners (each for about 10 years) were Helen Gassaway and Carter Clagett, both members of families long established in the County. 6/

The present owners purchased the house in 1954. They recently added a large garage at the rear of the property.

Footnotes:

1. Wagner House is recognized as the characterization of Victorian era beyond Rockville. The CBS television show "60 Minutes" televised a segment showing this shady verandah with its line of rush-bottomed, slat back rockers as evocative of a by-gone age.
2. Montgomery County Land Records JA3/28 (1886). The deed prohibited Mr. Hogg from erecting a building on the northern part of the lot that would interfere with Miss Beall's adjoining property.
3. The fire was reported in the November 30, 1894 Montgomery County Sentinel, describing the attempts made to save the adjoining houses and the destruction of the towering shade trees around the house, cut away to lessen the risk of spreading the flames.
4. Montgomery County Sentinel, various issues from 1890 - 1909 relate to Mr. West's activities. Minutes of Rockville Mayor and Commissioners detail his town administrative functions.
5. Montgomery County Story, Vol. VIII, No. 4, (1965), "Seventy-Five Years of Rockville, Maryland", by William F. Prettyman, p. 8.
6. Land Records, op. cit., 234/28 (1912); 322/257 (1922) and 608/288 (1935).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ^M26/10/41

Montgomery County Land, Equity, Will, Tax, and Plat Records; 1890 Town Survey of West End; Town Minutes; Montgomery County Sentinel 1886-1922; Interview with Mrs. Wagner. "Peerless Rockville " brochure.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 59.645 square perches

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #2 of Miss Beall's Subdivision as surveyed by William Grady in 1875 (Survey lost). Fronting on West Montgomery Avenue and bordering the west side of North Van Buren Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones, Architectural Description.organization Peerless Rockville date July 1985street & number P.O. Box 4262 telephone 762-0096city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

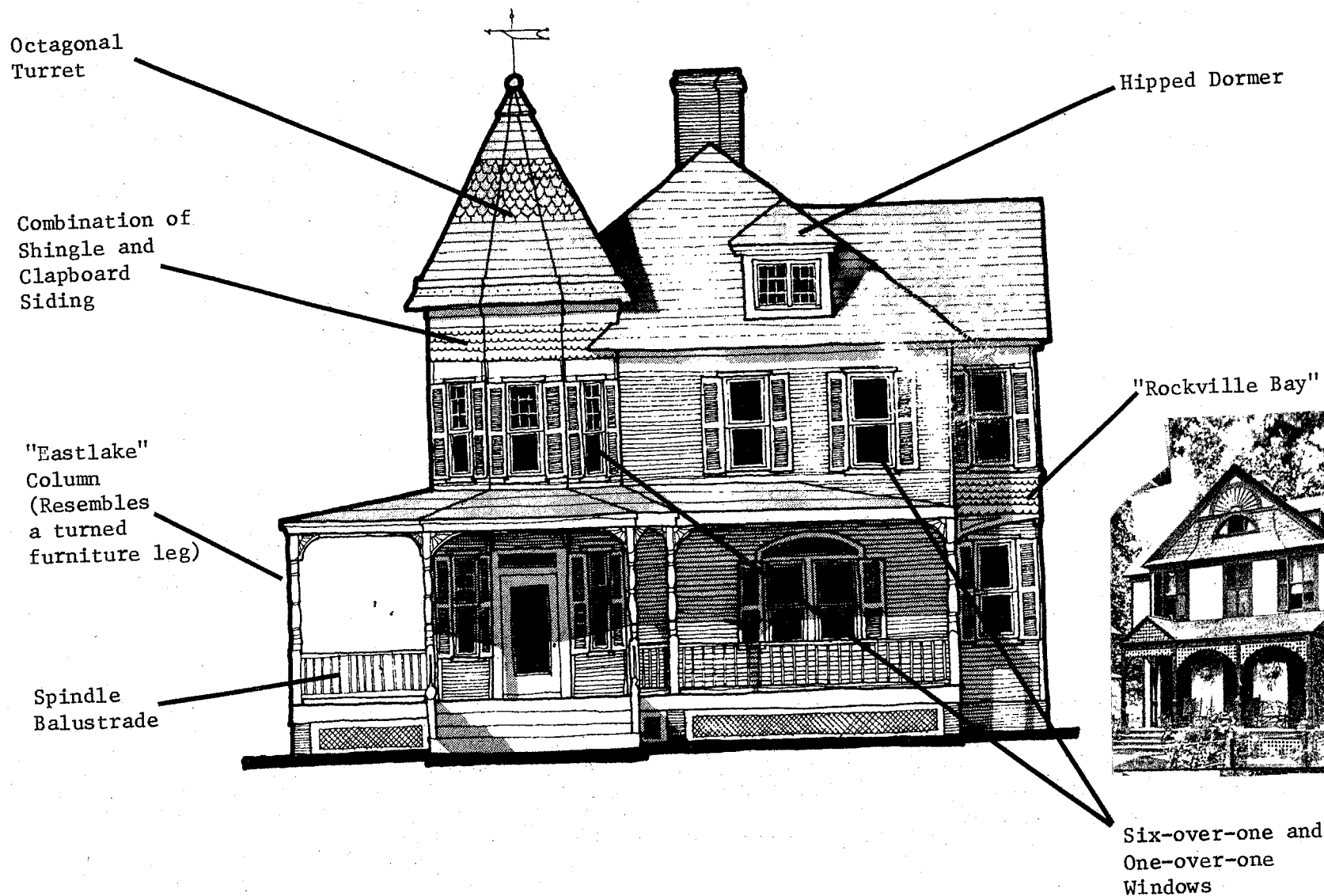
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

M: 26/10/41

ATTACHMENT 7.2 Wagner House-201 West Montg.²⁹
From: Adopted Architectural Design
Guidelines for the Exterior Rehabilitation
of Buildings in Rockville's
Historic Districts (1978)



1890 Brochure "Peerless Rockville" (copy)



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

0885-16-4

m: 26/10/41
Wagner House
201 W. Montgomery Ave.
Rockville
8-85 SE facade



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

0885-16-1

M: 26/10/41
Wagner House
201 W. Montgomery Ave.
Rockville
8-85 S. Facade